

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A breather sheet for use in the curing of a composite part comprising two distinct, affixed outer layers with a mesh layer interposed therebetween and incompressible across a plane of its surface such that the breather sheet as assembled is incompressible, each of the outer layers being provided with a plurality of holes prior to assembly of the breather sheet, the holes being configured and disposed such that when the two outer layers are fixed together to form the breather sheet a plurality of passageways is formed for air and/or volatiles to pass freely through the breather sheet, the passageways being configured and disposed such that that the interposition of the mesh layer in any position or orientation relative to the outer layers does not substantially obstruct all of the passageways.

2. (Original) A breather sheet as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the outer layers are made of a semi-rigid material.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) A breather sheet as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the outer layers and mesh layer are bonded together with adhesive.

5. (Previously Presented) A breather sheet as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the circumference of the breather sheet is adapted to abut another breather sheet in such a way that adjacent breather sheets can be used to form a composite breather pack.

6. (Previously Presented) A breather sheet as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the breather sheet is pre-formed to the required shape for the composite component.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of assembly of a breather sheet comprising two outer layers and a mesh layer such that the assembled breather sheet has a plurality of passageways therethrough for the free passage of air and/or volatiles, comprising interposing a mesh layer between two outer layers, each of which is provided with a plurality of holes prior to assembly, aligning the two outer layers and the mesh layer, and fixing the layers together to form a unitary breather sheet.

8. (Original) A method according to Claim 7 comprising bonding the two outer layers together with the mesh sandwiched there between.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 7, comprising shaping the two outer layers to form a breather sheet of a predetermined shape.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A breather sheet as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the holes of one of the outer layers are arranged differently from the holes in the other of the outer layers.

12. (Previously Presented) A breather sheet as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the adhesive is provided at spaced local spots so as to substantially avoid blocking the passageways.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the step of providing each of the outer layers with a plurality of holes includes arranging the holes of one of the layers differently from the holes in the other of the layers.

14. (Currently Amended) Method of using a breather sheet, comprising:

providing an uncured laminate formed of individual prepegs,

providing a vacuum bag,

applying a release film against the uncured laminate,

interposing a breather sheet between the vacuum bag and the release film, wherein the breather sheet is comprised of two distinct, affixed outer layers with a mesh layer interposed therebetween and incompressible across a plane of its surface such that the breather sheet as assembled is incompressible, each of the outer layers being provided with a plurality of holes prior to assembly of the breather sheet, the holes being configured and disposed such that when the two outer layers are fixed together to form the breather sheet a plurality of

passageways is formed for air and/or volatiles to pass freely through the breather sheet, the passageways being configured and disposed such that the interposition of the mesh layer in any position or orientation relative to the outer layers does not substantially obstruct all of the passageways, and

subsequently removing the breather sheet after the uncured laminate has been cured.

15. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 14, wherein the outer layers are made of a semi-rigid material.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 14, wherein the holes of one of the outer layers are arranged differently from the holes in the other of the outer layers.

18. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 14, wherein the outer layers and mesh layer are bonded together with adhesive.

19. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 18, wherein the adhesive is provided at spaced local spots so as to substantially avoid blocking the passageways.

20. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 14, wherein at least a portion of the circumference of the breather sheet is adapted to abut another breather sheet in such a way that adjacent breather sheets can be used to form a composite breather pack.

21. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 14, wherein the breather sheet functions to maintain a flow path throughout the vacuum bag to a vacuum source while continuous pressure is applied during curing of the laminate.